

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, which the House will consider today.

This bill would create a national affordable housing trust fund to be administered by HUD, the Housing and Urban Development Department. The trust would increase the supply of decent quality affordable housing, especially for low-income families.

Owning a home is an American value, but many are not able to acquire that dream. With rising housing costs throughout the country, affordable housing for low-income Americans has become nearly impossible.

For example, in 2006 Los Angeles County residents needed to make at least \$50,000 a year to afford a two-bedroom apartment. That income is significantly more than what social workers, preschool teachers, and in-home health care aides earn on average. The gap between wages and housing costs in Los Angeles County and nationwide has skyrocketed.

I urge my colleagues today to vote for the final passage of H.R. 2895 so we can help all our constituents realize the American Dream.

#### U.S. ECONOMY AND TAXES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, America's economy is increasingly complex. While we hear reports of uncertainty, we also see many fundamental signs of health in the economy.

The latest good news is the recent jobs report that found the economy added 110,000 jobs in September and 89,000 jobs in August, a massive turnaround from the previously reported loss of 4,000 jobs in August.

With 200,000 new jobs added to the economy in the last 2 months, we once again have proof that Republican economic policies of cutting taxes to spur growth are still working. But we cannot keep our economy thriving on the tax cuts of yesterday. Congress must work to keep taxes low for America's working families.

We have already seen a Democratic budget that assumes a tax increase of nearly \$400 billion. If there are signs of uncertainty about the future of our economy, such a financial hit to American taxpayers would undoubtedly undermine the positive steps Republicans took to ensure economic growth and stability.

Everyone wants a strong U.S. economy. Let's keep it that way by preserving low taxes and not preying on the wallets of the families that work hard to keep this economy humming.

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#### IN SUPPORT OF SCHIP

(Mr. SESTAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the SCHIP bill, which will provide health insurance for 4 million uninsured children, expanded dental care, and, for the first time, treating mental disabilities and mental illness on a par with physical disability. The bill also contains premium assistance subsidies, so that at least 70 percent of these children's parents remain in employer-based private health insurance plans. But I rise most because of what I saw when my 4-year-old daughter was given 3 to 9 months to live and we lived on a cancer ward in the city. And this Nation, because of my military service, gave me the best health care possible for her to have an opportunity, her roommate was a young 2½-year-old boy diagnosed with acute leukemia whose parents did not have health insurance and social workers had to discuss whether that boy would, with my daughter, have an opportunity to live into life.

I rise in support of this bill for that young boy.

#### STOP OVERTAXATION AND OVERSPENDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that Democrats remain ready to tax and spend as much as they can. Whether it's a war tax, an Internet tax, or a cigarette tax that will overly burden low-income families, the first Democrat solution seems to be to tax hard-working Americans.

And when they are not trying to raise taxes on American workers, they are spending their hard-earned money at reckless levels. The \$23 billion in new domestic spending this majority has proposed is just another sign that they feel they know better how to spend your own money.

We must restore fiscal sanity to government, but we should do that by making the necessary decisions here in Washington to save taxpayer money and spend wisely. Both parties need to pass fiscally responsible appropriations legislation rather than wait until we are forced to vote on a giant omnibus spending bill that will be full of earmarks. Let's stop asking Americans to pay for government's inability to get the job done.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

#### IRAQIS MUST RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I just had the opportunity to travel in a bipartisan codel to the Middle East, particularly to Baghdad.

Robin Williams had an album at one time, "Reality, What a Concept." I thought about it while I was there. I saw a lot of reality. I saw our soldiers in life-and-death situations and doing it in a heroic fashion. They told me about their need to be redeployed over there not every 15 months, but every 12 months because the pressure is wearing on them and on their personal lives. The divorce rate is high, and it really takes a toll on their lives. They see the people working for the private companies over there making so much more money than them, the contractors, and they say, why should we re-enlist. But they do it because they're proud Americans.

But then we met with Prime Minister Maliki, and he said the sectarian war was over. Well, Prime Minister Maliki, it's not, and until the Iraqis deal with reality and deal with the Sunni and Shia differences, there won't be peace in Iraq and our soldiers will be working for a group that doesn't understand the problem, which is their own internal politics. The Iraqis must resolve their differences.

#### MORATORIUM ON EARMARKS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, new earmark reforms required that Members' names be attached to their earmarks. Unfortunately, transparency alone has done little but air our dirty laundry without cleaning it. Transparency is not a substitute for oversight. Earmarks have names next to them now, but little else has changed. The House has approved thousands and thousands and thousands of earmarks so far this year, and more are likely to be added in the conference committees. However, we know full well that not all of these earmarks were given the scrutiny that Federal expenditures deserve.

Every week, I highlight an earmark by making an admittedly lame joke about it, but we need a process that inspires confidence, not jokes or humor. And, unfortunately, transparency alone has not gotten us there.

Until this body has a process that can be trusted, Mr. Speaker, I believe the taxpayers would be best served by a moratorium on earmarks, and I will soon introduce legislation to impose such a moratorium.

#### OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF SCHIP LEGISLATION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was important to allow our Republican